

# YOUTH SERVICES POLICY

<b>Title:</b> Youth Street Gangs and Notification Requirements <b>Next Annual Review Date:</b> 04/04/2012	<b>Type:</b> B. Classification, Sentencing and Service Functions <b>Sub Type:</b> 8. Youth Related Services <b>Number:</b> B.8.13
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<b>References:</b> La. R.S. 15:1401 through 1407; YS Policies B.2.3 "Direct Admission", B.2.13 "Early Release" and B.3.1 "Composition/Location/Retention of Active and Inactive Secure Care Youth Records"	
<b>STATUS: Approved</b>	
<b>Approved By:</b> Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary	<b>Date of Approval:</b> 04/04/2011

## I. AUTHORITY:

Deputy Secretary of Youth Services as contained in La.R.S. 36:405. Deviation from this policy must be approved by the Deputy Secretary.

## II. PURPOSE:

To provide information regarding street gangs, and to establish policy for providing pertinent information to appropriate law enforcement agencies pursuant to the laws of this State.

## III. APPLICABILITY:

Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Chief of Operations, Deputy Assistant Secretaries, Facility Directors, and Regional Managers.

## IV. Definitions:

**Juvenile Electronic Tracking System (JETS)** - The centralized database used to track all youth under OJJ supervision or custody, and to record youth case record activity.

**Street Gangs** - Any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, which has as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more of the criminal acts enumerated in Paragraphs (1) through (8) of Subsection B of La. R.S. 15:1404 or which has a common name or common identifying sign or symbol, whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity.

## V. POLICY:

Findings indicate that youth involvement in gangs stems from many factors, including extensive geographic mobility, rapid urbanization and population growth, substantial pockets of poverty, unemployment, increasing rates of dropout and expulsion, a rich racial and ethnic mix, and a transient population of youth.

Youth Services (YS) is required by law to provide pertinent information to appropriate law enforcement agencies; therefore, it is the Deputy Secretary's policy that when a youth is released from secure custody for a violation of La. R.S. 15:1403 or 15:1403.1, or if YS knows that the youth is or was a member of a street gang, appropriate law enforcement agencies shall be notified of the release.

**VI. PROCEDURES:**

- A. During the Direct Admissions process, and Initial Custody Classification, the youth's case record shall be examined to determine if the youth is/was a member of a street gang, or was in the custody of YS based on a violation of La. R.S.15:1403 -15:1404. Such information shall be entered into JETS, utilizing the Youth at Risk Staff Alert Form (B.2.3 (b)).
- B. In accordance with La. R.S. 15:1405.3, notification of the release of a youth identified as a street gang member shall be sent to the following:
  - 1. the Sheriff of the parish in which the crime was committed;
  - 2. the Sheriff of the parish in which the youth will reside upon release;
  - 3. the Chief of Police of the municipality in which the crime was committed; and
  - 4. the Chief of Police of the municipality in which the youth will reside upon release.
- C. Notification shall be made prior to the youth's release, unless the facility does not have prior notice of the court's decision for release. In these cases, notifications shall be made within five (5) working days.
- D. Documentation of the notification shall be maintained in the youth's hard copy Master Record under Clip VI.

**Previous Regulation/Policy Number:** B.8.13

**Previous Effective Date:** 08/26/2004

**Attachments/References:**